

ARMY RUGBY UNION

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*‘Professional in every way – on the battlefield and on the rugby field; for the Army, our unit and sport. Striving for excellence and success in all that we do’*

**ARMY RUGBY UNION CORPS SEVENS 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION**

**Introduction**

1. On behalf of the President and Chairman of the Army Rugby Union (ARU), it is with great pleasurethat Corps teams are invited to compete in the ARU Corps 7s 2023 competition.
2. ARU7s have been highly successful on the sevens circuits, both domestic and international, and are often regarded as *‘the team to beat’*. With the increased professionalism of Sevens Rugby, and its’ continued development worldwide, this high status is ever more difficult to maintain. With this in mind Sevens will be grown at unit level with an aspiration of feeding players into Corps and Army teams. This will only be achieved with the continued support and commitment of both players and management and the support of their Chain of Command (CoC).
3. Service representative sport, and especially Army Rugby Union, continues to influence the public opinion of the Armed Forces and maintain public support. Furthermore, Service representative sport continues to support the efforts towards recruitment and retention, actively demonstrating to serving personnel and potential recruits, elements of ‘The Offer’ associated with joining the Armed Forces.
4. **Aim**. The aim of this letter is to:
	1. Notify participating Corps Secretaries and Chain of Command;
	2. Communicate administrative details for the competition;
	3. Serve as the authority for claims to the Representative Sports travel in accordance with current regulations as set by the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB).

**Competition Structure**

1. The competition and team format will closely align with World Rugby formats and laws:
	1. **Tournament Format**. The tournament will feature a round robin pool phase, the number of pools will rely on number of teams. This will lead to a knockout stage based on the final pool positions. Teams will be playing towards a Cup and Plate Final.
	2. **Pool Play**. The aspiration is to have both male and female pools leading to the knockout phase.
		1. **Male**. The aim is to have 12 Corps teams competing in 4 pools of 3 teams. The Corps teams will be split between the pools with 1 team per Merit table (based on standings following Corps finals 22/23 season) in each pool. There will be a blind draw to form each pool.
		2. **Female**. The 2022 tournament featured 4 female teams who competed in a round robin leading to a Cup final. In 2023 we would like to see this number grow to at least 5 teams competing in a round robin. Corps teams are invited to enter mixed teams if needed, but the hope is to have individual Corps teams.
	3. **Team Composition**. Each squad will be permitted to have 13 players. 12 players will make up the main playing squad which must remain the same for each game. The 13th person will be a travelling reserve, only playing if there is a major injury to a player who can take no further part.

**Administration**

1. **Affiliation**. All military teams wishing to take part must have in date affiliation with the ARU, this will provide insurance cover.
2. **Pitch Allocation**. It is the intent of the ARU to play all pool matches on Queens Avenue and stage the Cup and Trophy Finals in the Army Rugby Stadium.
3. **Lunch**. The ARU have kindly provided lunch for teams and match officials. More details will be given on the day.
4. **Parking**. Will be on the Waldham Theatre car park only. A map will be provided to show its location.
5. **Medical**. In accordance with the event RA Paramedic support will be available throughout the day. All teams **must** have Pitch Side First Aid orPhysio in the event of a minor injury. HIA will not be conducted pitchside; if a referee deems that a player is unable to continue, that player will be removed and will play no further part in the competition.
6. **Travel**. The ASCB has authorised military travel to be claimed against **POT 16**, Corps must use unit UIN when booking all transport.
7. **Accommodation**. It is individual Corps responsibility to book accommodation if needed. Central bookings are to be contacted to confirm availability.
8. **Discipline**
	1. **Officials**. ARURS are requested to allocate officials for each tournament.
	2. **Discipline Matters**. The competition will fall under RFU Regulation 19 for all discipline matters. All cases will be dealt with on the day by a panel at the competition. Suspensions will be given in matches (not weeks). Appeals will not be heard on the day as these will be heard by the RFU Discipline Department. No personnel are permitted to play until the conclusion of their hearing. If the panel deem a red card as a serious offence, risk to health, that player may be barred from the remainder of the tournament. RFU sanction table can be found at this [LINK](https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/e2/e2574ff9-fea3-4114-bba8-ca78694a05ea/Regulation%2019%20Appendix%202.pdf).
9. **Presentations**. Prize giving for each final will take place immediately after the Cup Final. Teams not participating by this stage are asked to stay and support the finals this will cap off a competitive day. Finalists are to remain on the pitch to be positioned for the prize giving straight after the final whistle.
10. **Timings**. A more detailed programme for the days events will be produced and available to all teams, however the initial timings are:
	1. 0830hrs - Capt/Team and Officials brief;
	2. 0900hrs - Kick off for first fixtures;
	3. 1300hrs - Lunch;
	4. 1730hrs - Presentations.
11. **Publicity**. The ARU manages well supported social media channels, there will be someone posting throughout the day. Civilian clubs are welcome to follow the ARU and share any content.

**Command and Control**

1. ARU Points of Contact on day of competition:
	1. **ARU Community Director (ARU Lead)** Maj Marc Wilding
	2. **ARU Competition Lead**  Capt (Tfc) Jeff Howard

**Summary**

1. The aspiration is to grow Corps 7s into a well supported event which will attract teams from all over the UK. All teams participating are thanked for their support so far and welcomed back next year.

*(Original Signed)*

J A Howard

Capt (Tfc)

Director ARU Community 7s

Distribution:

Unit Rugby Officers

Copy to:

Chairman Army Community Rugby

Director of Army 7s

Ops Offr and Secretary, ARU

Annex:

1. Team Declaration Form

**Annex A to**

**ARU 7s AI**

**dated 26 May 23**

**TEAM DECLARATION FORM**

**All units are reminded that this form is to be completed for each team and handed in at the team captains’ briefing.**

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| **Team Name:**  |   | **Team Capt:**  |   |
| **Team Coach:**  |   | **Team Medic:**  |   |

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| **Player**   | **Name**   | **Rank**   | **Service Number**   | **Service / Cap Badge** **(if not Parent Unit)**  |
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